

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday evenings at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition...Air Force leaders on Operation Northern Watch; cops get tough training at Spangdahlem; German, U.S. pilots share safety notes; hearing protection takes priority at Aviano AB, Italy.

News briefs

Court-martial

A summary court-martial June 1 sentenced a 52nd Medical Operations Squadron airman to 10 days confinement, 30 days restriction to base and a reduction to airman basic.

Airman Tracy L. Lilliston pleaded guilty for one charge of drunk on duty and five specifications of failing to pay debts.

Lilliston was convicted of being drunk on duty March 30 as a health service apprentice. The failure to pay debts charged occurred between February and April. She accumulated more than \$935 in debt at 52nd Services Squadron and AAFES facilities, and at a bank without paying the bills.

Limited hospital service

Because of the 52nd Medical Group change of command Monday, most clinics and ancillary services (lab, pharmacy, radiology) operate with reduced hours.

The clinics open for morning urgent care appointments, and most clinics curtail services except for emergencies after 10 a.m. Outpatient records and the appointment line also shut down at 10 a.m.

Emergency services are available at Bitburg as are ambulance services at Spangdahlem.

Supply closure

Base supply's individual equipment element closes June 19-23 for inventory. During this time, it will only process emergency requests. For more information and before stopping by with emergency requests, call Staff Sgt. David Ellison at 452-6866.

Change of commands

Maj. Nancy Stanley becomes the 52nd Supply Squadron commander during a change of command ceremony at 11 a.m. in building 250 June 23. She replaces Maj. Terrance Cooper, who heads to Central Command headquarters. Stanley is currently the 35th Supply Squadron deputy chief at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Also, Lt. Col. John Mabes becomes the

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Eifel Times

Vol. 34, Issue 21

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

June 9, 2000

Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Marie Vasques, lodging housekeeper, cleans a room in the Spangdahlem facility.

Team scours through lodging to determine Innkeeper winner

By Staff Sgt. Rich Romero
52nd Fighter Wing public affairs

A rigorous evaluation of the Eifel Arms Inn lodging facilities on Spangdahlem and Bitburg awaits the 52nd Services Squadron next week.

An Innkeeper Evaluation Team from Headquarters U.S. Air Force Services Agency brings their fine-tooth combs to the facilities June 20 through 22 to determine if the Eifel's lodging is the best in the Air Force.

Spangdahlem represents all U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases for the annual Innkeeper Award in the small unit category against representative bases from all other major commands.

Steve Holland, lodging general manager, says he's not losing sleep about

the competition.

"There's nothing for us to worry about," he said. "We operate using Innkeeper inspection standards daily."

Even so, just meeting the standards doesn't cut it, Holland said. To counter that, the lodging program spent more than \$250,000 and a lot of hard work on infrastructure improvements.

"I'm not just referring to 'show and tell' areas like appearance and furnishings," he said. "We went back to basics, examining every area of our operation to see where and how we could improve customer service — our most important objective."

Some of those improvements include shuttle service to and from the Ramstein

area, a massage therapist on location, a full-service continental breakfast and coffee bar, a completely renovated temporary family lodging lobby and brand new carpeting throughout the visiting officers' quarters.

Thinking about what's been accomplished in the past year puts a smile on Holland's face. Just one negative comment card, though, wipes it away. Fortunately, that happens infrequently. Thumbing through April's customer comment cards produces only two negative comments out of 39 highly positive customer comment cards.

He attributes those low numbers to the lodging staff's commitment to

See Innkeeper, Page 2

AF promotes largest percentage to tech, master

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force selected 7,536 of 19,269 eligible technical sergeants for promotion to master sergeant and 11,449 of 41,414 eligible staff sergeants for promotion to technical sergeant.

This represents an overall 39.1 percent selection rate for the 00E7 cycle and 27.6 percent selection rate for the 00E6 cycle, for an all-time record setting percentage on both counts.

For Spangdahlem Air Base and its geographically separated units, the numbers were even more impressive

with 218 NCOs selected for promotion to technical sergeant and 120 for master sergeant. The GSUs had 261 selected for tech and 143 for master. The base selection rates were 32 percent to tech and a whopping 46 percent to master. The GSUs had 31 percent selected to tech and 44 percent to master.

Selected for promotion to master sergeant are:

23rd Fighter Squadron

Stephen Dowd, Kevin Gary, Jeffrey Hamilton, Tracy Hatch and Jeffrey Venohr

470th Air Base Squadron

Charles Jenkins, Roger Owens and Michael Wentworth

52nd Component Repair Squadron

James Arnold, Gregory Mann, Clark Pope, Bonnie Sison, Franklin L. Spear I, James T. Storey Jr., John Vanduser and Steven Worthen

52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Edward Daniel, Charles Davis, William Dornbach, Marvin L. Forbes Jr., Joseph Galletti, Kevin Haldeman, Jeffrey Henderson, Robert Keyser, Alan Law, Michael Ray, J.C. Riggs Jr. and Faafetai Seau

52nd Transportation Squadron

Richard Barnes, Joseph Crist, Patrick Lewis, Brian Twitchell and Benjamin White

52nd Security Forces Squadron

Gregory Daly, Clifford Hahn, Franklin McElhane, Donald Patrick and William

See Promote, Page 2

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

52nd Munitions Support Squadron commander at Kleine Broegel, Belgium, during a ceremony at 2 p.m. June 26. He replaces Lt. Col. Scott MacDonald, who departs to become the National Missile Defense and Space-based Laser Programs requirements branch chief. Mabes goes to the unit from his current position as the 52nd Component Repair Squadron commander.

Gas coupons

The Esso gas station located on Schwetzingen Strasse in Leimen, Germany, near Heidelberg, is not accepting AAFES gas coupons until further notice, according to Esso officials.

Esso in Germany and the Netherlands is contracted by AAFES to accept ration-controlled coupons for redemption in Esso gas stations on the local economy.

Signs are posted in English and German at the Leimen station advising customers of the situation.

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New arrival

Enrique Rodriguez, 12th Flying Wing aircraft maintenance at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, directs the Air Force's first operational T-6A Texan II into position during an arrival ceremony May 23. Joint specialized undergraduate pilot training students will use the new trainer, which will replace the Air Force and Navy's aging fleets of T-37 Tweet and T-34 Turbomenter aircraft. Produced by Raytheon Aircraft Company, the T-6A will be used to train entry-level Air Force and Navy aviation students. It's named after the classic T-6 Texan used by the Air Force and Navy in the 1940's and 1950's.

Charlie Perez

Promote

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Whittle

52nd Services Squadron

Robert Jackson

52nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Chad Burlando, Lori Clough, Stanley Gilmore, Daniel Higgins, Frank Humphries, Robert Hunter, Darryl Knowles, Edwin Lanuza, Wenfredo Lime, Edward Lukitsch, Ramon Rivera and Jeffrey Zitzelberger

52nd Supply Squadron

Brian Payne

52nd Fighter Wing

Stephen Carey, Darryl Cotton, Scott Livingston and Richard Neal

22nd Fighter Squadron

Steven Frisch, Brian Kelly, William Lowther, Robert Marshall, Anthony Range and Cleveland Wiltz

52nd Communications Squadron

Matthew Hammock, Timothy Horn, Douglas Jones and Cedric Rodgers

852nd Munitions Support Squadron

Thomas Austin, Scott Ehling, Paul McCourtly and Robert Wade

52nd Munitions Support Squadron

William McElhinny, Kelvin Nesbit, Joyce Parker and Donald Tubbs

752nd Munitions Support Squadron

William Nygren, Terry Ronk and Scott Talley

52nd Logistics Group

Bruce D. Ayers II, Edna Dodson and James Martin

52nd Operations Group

Leonard Mian and James Riddle

52nd Operations Support Squadron

Ivan Blanco, Jack Bugaren, Michael Fruend, Joe M. Garcia Jr., David Lappie, Forrest Powell, Patrick Raymond and Fredrick Soechting

52nd Logistics Support Squadron

Roger Lee, Jerry L. Pullin Jr. and Guy Travis

81st Fighter Squadron

Frankie Blas, Nathan Carline, David Cirey, Jeffrey Gillette, David Swantek and Jeffrey Williams

606th Air Control Squadron

Ladd DaFoe, Thomas Hardin, Brian Jetelma, Scott Updike and Allen Young

52nd Medical Operations Squadron

Mark Miller, Dale Kirby and Kevin Lake

52nd Medical Support Squadron

Terry Augustine, John Lenz, Ronald Thomas, Robert Mills, and Conrad O'Rourke

52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Tracey Rickey and Darryl Swartz

52nd Dental Squadron

Glynda Lilly

52nd Comptrollers Squadron

Lucian L. Hill Jr. and Jan A. Kravcheno Jr.

52nd Contracting Squadron

Kenton Raiford and Anthony Simmons

372nd Training Squadron

William Medlin

AWACS

Terry Acker, Wayne Baker, Paul Balma, Mark Bradford, William Campos, Jimmie Carr, Robert Cloutier, Roger Forstner, John Hall, Raymond King III, Keith Kitchell, Mark Macquarrie, Luis A. Martinez Jr., Craig Moore, Scott Raley, James Reid, Michael Rhine, Timothy Sutton, Gregory Taylor and Donald E. Young Jr.

Air Force Central Command Headquarters

Debora Carbone and Gary Carter

NATO/Air Force Central Command

James Neill

Selected for promotion to technical sergeant are:

52nd Services Squadron

Sean Applegate

470th Air Base Squadron

Mark Cleveland, Phil Hollingsworth, Gershun Knight, Charles Leonhart, Phillip Oliphant, Wilbert B. Reeves I, Frank Shoemaker, George Sosa and Emerlito Tomasek

23rd Fighter Squadron

Thomas Abram, Paul Adams, Brian Clark, John Paul Durlak, Jimmy Paz, Bennie Robinson Jr., Richard Robinson, Keith Slingluff and Ronald Williams

52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Peter Bridwell, Michael Dick, William Dix, Derrick Donnelly, Kelly Duncan, Joseph Edington, Michael Foltermann, Ramon Gonzales, Michael Gronvold, Joshua Hall, Paul Hanchett, Kevin Johnson, Dennis Lehr, Jonathan Lohrenz, Steven Meyer, Charles Navarro Jr., Michael Newman, Bradford Simpson, Amy Thomas, Rhonda Tilley, Patrick Vanvraken, David Wedow and Anthony Workman

52nd Component Repair Squadron

Gary Barkman, Charles Bradley, Franco J. Coscia Jr., David Grisdale, Paul Jordan, Kerry Lawson, Brian Maier, Robert Mathews, Samuel McMillan and William Santiago

52nd Transportation Squadron

Danny Barkman, Victor Brinker, Thomas Burns, John Crowley, David Hansen, Chester Heitman, Michael Hullender, David Ivey, Paul Raymond, Andrew Thompson, Barbara Warden, Gary Warren and Steven Weaver

52nd Security Forces Squadron

Brian Flowers, Kevin Hubbard, William H. Hutto II, Michael Pipkin, Taralese Thomas and Timothy Yarbrough

52nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Bryan Barnhart, Bryan Chaplin, Sean Chaplin, William D. Covalt Jr., Thurman D. Dunlow Jr., Michael Frederick, Jason Frigon, Juan Garcia III, Curtis Green, William Hazelton, Scott Hazzard, Matthew Ketchum, Wayne Lilley, James Ludwig, Matthew McCoy, Tracy McGee, Raul Mendez Jr., Travis Messick, William Serenbetz, James Skyberg, David Wakefield and Dean Zoet

52nd Supply Squadron

Douglas Beck, Earl W. Brown Jr., James Calhoun, David Ellison, Vicki Harrison, Gerald Hawkins, Kevin Liggins, George Medeiros, Evangeline Reyes, Angela Scott and Shawn Stringham

52nd Fighter Wing

James Douglas, Mark Hosick, Donna Jackson, Darren Lemons, Teresa McManis, Rich Romero and Corwin Walks

22nd Fighter Squadron

Louis Andre, Roland Appleby, Jeffery Bailey, Douglas Barragy, George Cundiff, Gerald Greenwood, Michael Hamilton, Anthony Spencer, David Whitmore and Michael Whyte

52nd Communications Squadron

Rodel Delacruz, James Foreman, Albert Guzzardo, Christopher Kossack, William Little, Patrick O'Leary, Richard Santiago, Frank Snow, Terry Tyree and Scott Zanders

52nd Munitions Support Squadron

Matthew Barresi, Thomas Dennehy, Christopher Fleishman, Paul Helfner, Michele Johnson, Lawrence Kasha, Michelle McCants, Peter Roffe, Ricky Sarver, Frank Scott and Towanda Stallings

852nd Munitions Support Squadron

Karen Colp, Phillip Davis, Samuel Griffith, Charles Hawkins, Kirk Householder, Laurence Kalin, Jeffrey Long, Anthony Patti and Timothy Sickels

752nd Munitions Support Squadron

Elizabeth Bowe, Christina Byrd, Todd Lomax, Michael Sellars, Bradley Shaulis and Michael Stargell

52nd Logistics Group

Lovenna Robinson and Dean Willett

52nd Operations Group

Robert Beaudry, Paul W. Brophy Jr., Clarence C. Estes Jr., Everett Kuehn, Christopher Rendon, Jeffrey Smart, Robert Voight, Christopher Vonderau and Matthew Wolfe

52nd Operations Support Squadron

Joe Pineda, and Ricardo Young

52nd Logistics Support Squadron

Remedios Blas and Michael Italiano

81st Fighter Squadron

Edward Fett, Stephen Fike, Gary Hagins, Mary Henry, Todd Kenny, Jason Martin, Bruce Mullison, Purnell Page and Richard Swoboda

606th Air Control Squadron

Michael Bolstad, Ernest J. Burr Sr., Cheryl Chisolm, Marlon Mailey, David Matthews, Mark Sambenedetto, Hans P. Schmidt Jr., Charles Smith, John Stange, Tony Townsend, Bruce Tuttle, Milorad Vuckovich and Wendell Willems

52nd Medical Operations Squadron

Michael Edwards, Phillip Addison, Deborah Aguillon, Karen Bivens and Stephanie Wilder

52nd Medical Support Squadron

Any Stanfill, John B. Calhoun III, James Green, Wilbur Harvey, Julie Rice and Lisa Weinfurter

52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron

Robin Abrams, Louis Littleton, Michael Waller and Joel Zoucha

52nd Comptrollers Squadron

Nattaya Hammond and David Smith

372nd Training Squadron

Alvin Earp, Charles Grounds and Everard Oliver

Air Force Legal

Stacy Ganes

Detachment 9, Air Force Broadcasting Service

Sandra Brown, Steven James and Ronald Markman

AWACS

Pierre Alcidas, John Andrews, David Ballard, Michael Brightwell, Scott Charlton, Ricky Clark, Phillip Coffman, Douglas W. Cook II, Ronald Cosmore, Jerry A. Cuda III, Corvin Driver, Keith W. Endsley II, Michael Frazier, Ernest Garcia, Garfield Harris, Charles Hauenstein, Rory Hester, Donald Hill, Richard Howell, Jeffrey Hughes, James Kalisk, Richard Lokey, Randy Meeks, Peter Mills, Kevin Owen, Shawn Page, Joseph Podhajski, Timothy Preszler, Jane Reeves, Jamey Richardt, William Rowlette, Kurt Schmidt, Steven Vannoy, Dwayne Ward, Donald Wendland and James Wilbriht

Air Force Central Command Headquarters

William Hardy, Ricky Madison, William Osborne, David Parris and Steven Wyatt

European Command

Brian Bartsh and Michael Gear

See PROMOTE, Page 6

Innkeeper

Continued from Page 1

excellence. From maintenance technicians pitching in to help housekeepers to accountants covering the front desk for the reception staff, Holland said the entire team always pulls together to get the job done.

"I've even seen our housekeepers give guests rides to the

commissary so they can grocery shop," he said. "Another time, one of our reservation clerks offered to watch a guest's cat for free.

"Our people are the Band-Aid when sponsors are unavailable. We're proud of that, and I don't think many lodging staffs go that far."

Unlike other major Air Force award competitions where

winners receive large sums of money, the Innkeeper Award bestows a much greater prize.

"Confirmation that we offer the best service possible to our guests means more to us than any amount of money," Holland said. "You can't buy satisfied customers. That you have to earn. The evaluators are the experts, and hopefully they'll validate what we already know."

Wing plays in Phase II LSN

By Staff Sgt. Rich Romero

52nd Fighter Wing public affairs

Exercise is a word that can make people in a busy wing cringe when uttered. However, they are necessary to prepare the 52nd Fighter Wing to go to war.

That's just what the wing undergoes next week during a Local Salty Nation Phase II exercise Monday through June 16.

Phase II exercises focus on Expeditionary Wing Operations Center functions, composite force employment and ability to survive-to-operate training.

"Everybody will be tasked in the special instructions, and units will be evaluated on ATSO reactions, command and control, and individual skills," said Maj. James Vandernack, wing inspector general. "All wing members need to realize every organization has a part in every exercise."

This participation and readiness enables the wing to meet its goals and be fully prepared to deploy and employ when called upon, Vandernack said.

ATSO skills, in particular, need to be practiced frequently for people to be proficient at them. "We're not just talking mask drills and wearing the suit, but also post attack reconnaissance, decontamination procedures and resource protection," he said.

Vandernack suggests people review and keep handy a copy of Air Force Manual 10-100, "Airman's Manual." This LSN will be evaluated based upon procedures outlined in the manual. A few emphasis areas are force protection, terrorism awareness and self-aid and buddy care.

"This exercise has a larger scope than previous ones, ranging from suspicious packages to conventional and possible chemical weapons," Vandernack said.

Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Command presence

Col. Alan Thompson, 52nd Fighter Wing vice commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Steven Thompson, currently stationed at Rhein-Main Air Base, pin oversize command chief master sergeant chevrons on Chief Master Sgt. Audrey Thompson during a short ceremony Monday. Thompson is the new 52nd Fighter Wing command chief master sergeant. Brig. Gen. Don Hoffman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, selected Thompson as the wing command chief in April. She came to Spangdahlem Air Base from her previous position as the Kissing U.S. Air Forces in Europe NCO Academy commandant. She replaced the former command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Keane, who PCSed earlier this year. Thompson's husband is slated to PCS from Rhein-Main AB to the 23rd Fighter Squadron at a date yet to be determined.

Maintainer takes engine repair IDEA to the bank

Base program pays more than \$32,000 for people's suggestions since Oct. 1999

By Staff Sgt. Chris Walks
52nd Fighter Wing IDEA analyst

A back-shop NCOs idea to locally repair F-16 engine parts proved to be money in the bank, \$10,000 to be exact.

Staff Sgt. Eric Nicholson, 52nd Component Repair Squadron, received word May 31 a suggestion he submitted through the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program was approved for the maximum payout. Participating in the IDEA program could net people anywhere from the minimum \$200 to the maximum \$10,000.

To date at Spangdahlem Air Base, the total awards paid since the inception of the IDEA program Oct. 1, 1999, through June 1 come to \$32,617 on 56 approved ideas. The minimum award of \$200 was paid 50 times, and two people received the maximum \$10,000 payout.

Nicholson, a propulsion shop mechanic, found that a chaffing problem on augmentor mixing ducts and exhaust nozzles on the F-110-129 engine could be repaired locally instead of being sent to the depot. After

about two months of work and research to get the Air Force Technical Order changed, he started the IDEA process.

"Most of the work went into proving the savings to the Air Force," he said. "It actually took less than an hour for me to do my portion of the IDEA process."

The IDEA program, a new program to identify ways for the Air Force to save money through innovation, replaced its predecessor, the Suggestion Program.

The name itself has become synonymous with change for the better. In this ever-increasing world of Air Force downsizing, along with the increasing emphasis on doing more with less, every idea, big or small, makes a difference. The IDEA can be on anything of benefit to an office, squadron, base or entire U.S. Air Force.

This system is the Air Force's newest tool in its continuous improvement arsenal and allows users to complete their part of the IDEA process through a secure website from their own desk or office on any computer location on an Air Force installation. The program is available to

everyone — active duty, Reserve, Air National Guard, federal civilian employees, retirees, spouses, family members, private citizens and direct-hire of non-U.S. citizen employees. However, non-appropriated fund employees, military family members and private citizens aren't eligible for monetary awards. Instead, they receive certificates or letters of appreciation.

From the submitter to the evaluator on to the manpower and organization analyst, the system ensures all actions are accomplished quickly with less chance for errors.

Immediate IDEA program improvements include \$200 awarded for every approved idea that is outside job responsibilities and 15 percent of the first-year tangible savings awarded up to \$10,000. In addition to the new award scale, recognition (monetary and non-monetary) will be made upon approval instead of implementation, as was the case with the Suggestion Program.

One of the goals of the IDEA program is to bring in ideas from people who may not have usually submitted them in the past. With more ideas, Air Force officials hope to see more savings.

Since the IDEA program's inception, it's saved \$34.5 million for the Air Force and awarded \$2.5 million to submitters. The

former Suggestion Program changed into the new program through an intensive re-engineering effort with the most dramatic initial change occurring in the award scale.

The new method of determining awards is a big improvement compared to its complex predecessor. The new program recognizes people who submit an idea that saves the Air Force money with a flat 15 percent of the first-year savings — if the idea submitted is outside the realm of the submitter's job.

The first emphasis of this change is to timely reward submitters to eliminate frustration with long delays before recognition. The second emphasis is to encourage increased participation in the program.

The new user-friendly system follows the IDEA process from beginning to end. Initial input occurs when the submitter enters an idea in the IDEA Program Data System, the idea then moves to the supervisor/evaluator for evaluation of the idea and finally for approval or disapproval.

If an idea is approved, the submission flows to the certifying official in the manpower office for a stamp of approval

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OSW munitions flight arms for the fight

By 1st Lt. Dave Huxsoll
363rd Air Expeditionary Wing public affairs

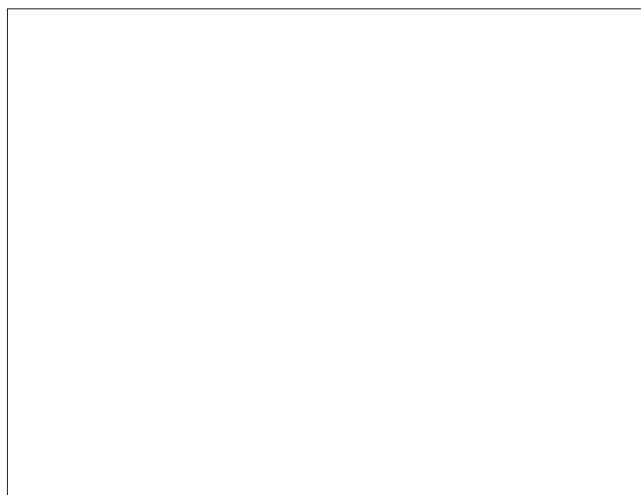
SOUTHWEST ASIA — Master Sgt. Bruce Birdwell likes to sum up the importance of his mission in one statement. "When it comes to defending and protecting U.S. interests, soldiers, sailors and airmen may survive 14 days without food and seven days without water, but they can't go one day without AMMO."

The 363rd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron munitions flight, better known simply as "AMMO," is the team responsible for ensuring that if Saddam decides to strike, U.S. forces can respond. The flight supports Operation Southern Watch at its Southwest Asia base by storing, maintaining and preparing munitions and countermeasures for all 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing aircraft.

"More than 120 active duty and Guard service members from 36 different bases (including Spangdahlem Air Base) make up the flight," said Chief Master Sgt. Gary L. Parker, Aerospace Expeditionary Force-5 munitions flight chief. Divided into eight elements, the men and women of the flight operate in two geographically-separated areas — the Forward Operating Location, located near the base's runway, and the Munitions Storage Area, located about 12 miles from the base's main work area.

Elements operating in the FOL provide missiles, 20-mm ammunition, and chaff and flare countermeasures for OSW aircraft. The flightline support element also maintains munitions handling trailers to deliver these assets.

"In a typical day we process an average of 2,200 rounds of 20 mm ammunition and 150 sticks of chaff and flare countermeasures," said Birdwell, who serves as FOL conventional maintenance chief.



Capt. Mark Rose

Airman 1st Class Christopher Castillon, from Spangdahlem Air Base and currently deployed to the 363rd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron munitions flight, connects a hydraulic unit on a AIM-7 Sparrow missile.

"We inventory all universal ammunition loaders and ensure that our chaff and flare quantities match," added Staff Sgt. Kelly A.T. Orsund, conventional maintenance crew chief, "and if there are expenditures from the day before, we replenish them."

Munitions flight members at the FOL, such as Master Sgt. Michael Shy, Staff Sgt. Matt Bratton, and Senior Airman LaForest Smith, test, inspect, load and maintain missiles, and troubleshoot any problems they might encounter. AIM-9 Sidewinders require detailed inspections after every 20 flights to ensure their safety and effectiveness.

Members of AMMO also deliver munitions between the two units and to the flightline. Between the MSA and FOL, the flight maintains more than 75 vehicles.

"Without safe and timely munitions deliveries the mission would suffer," explained Master Sgt. Greig Hartman, flightline support element chief. "Equipment must be in good working condition for the mission happen."

Hartman, with the help of people like Tech. Sgt. Devin Goade and Senior Airman Hector Canales, is responsible for management of all flightline delivery, as well as maintenance and inspection of more than 85 munitions trailers.

The unit's munitions storage area is the second largest in the Air Force, encompassing more than 2,100 square acres. Here they inspect, maintain, store and account for about 44,000 short tons of munitions. They also support 16 custody accounts for the explosive ordnance disposal unit and security forces.

Ask AMMO members what they like most about their unit, and they will tell you it is the team spirit every member feels.

"What gives me the most pleasure is the camaraderie between the AMMO troops, and how they became a cohesive unit within days of arriving here," Parker said.

AMMO prides itself on doing things bigger, better and louder than anyone else. One project the MSA inspection element undertook during AEF-5 was to secure the biggest unit rock on base.

"We came across a huge rock that would be great for the shop, but everyone agreed it was too big," explained Master Sgt. David Ritchey, inspection element chief. "So I told Senior Airman Ben Manley that if he could move the rock to inspection, I would pull his gate guard detail." Manley coordinated with civil engineers to move the 19-metric ton rock using a 30-ton crane, and Ritchey pulled guard May 8.

While members of the flight have their fun, they know their job is deadly serious. In the past 18 months, Iraqi forces fired upon coalition aircraft more than 460 separate times, and violated the Southern No-Fly Zone more than 150 times.

IDEA

Continued from Page 3

before coming to a close at the disbursing office, where the final action takes place — sending the award to the submitter's bank account. The ultimate goal of the IDEA program is to become a fully automated, paperless process.

"Once it (the IDEA) reached the wing IDEA analyst, I received an e-mail congratulating me on the award the same day," Nicholson said. "I was really impressed with the timeliness of my notification."

While his \$10,000 award was Nicholson's first time using the IDEA program, he has two others in the works.

He's not banking on cashing in on \$20,000, but who knows?

For more information on the IDEA program, contact your unit IDEA monitor. A list of monitors is available at the program analyst's office in building 129.

Eifel Times

<http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil>

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

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MTI recruiting team looks for applicants

By Senior Airman Kelli Bonyeau
52nd Mission Support Squadron

Interesting, challenging and re-warding work as a Military Training Instructor is available to nearly every Air Force enlisted person.

"There's a constant need for enlisted training instructors at Lackland (Air Force Base, Texas)," said Senior Master Sgt. Scott Owens, MTI Recruiting Team superintendent. "Applicants from all Air Force specialties are eligible to apply and are encouraged to attend the upcoming MTI briefing at Spangdahlem Air Base to determine eligibility."

The briefing lasts about two hours and will "answer everything you want to know about MTI duty," Owens said.

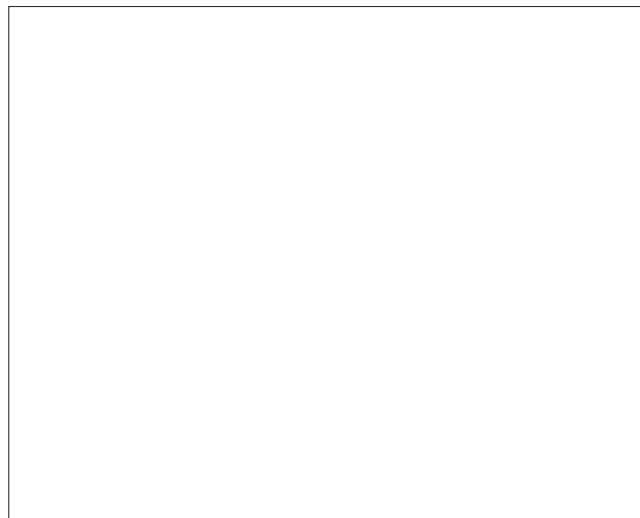
Senior airmen who will commit to a second enlistment through master sergeants with less than 16 years total active service are eligible to apply. More details are available during the MTI briefing set for 9 a.m. Monday in building 217. Application packages will be processed by the MTI recruiting team while they're on base. People interested in applying should make

advance arrangements for the remainder of the day to complete all requirements, such as psychological testing and interviews by the team. Spouses are encouraged to attend the special-duty briefing.

"Most concerns about MTI duty are based upon misconceptions or fear of the unknown," Owens said. "Everyone remembers their MTI. The MTI sets the stage for each person's success in the Air Force."

MTIs receive \$275 per month in special duty assignment pay, additional clothing allowance to upgrade uniforms, free dry cleaning and a stabilized four-year tour.

"MTIs are provided excellent training and guidance throughout their tour," Owens said. "We expect excellence in appearance, training, behavior and attitude. Within a short time, you'll find yourself marching tall with one of the most elite groups in the Air Force – the MTI Corps."



Yolanda Hunter

Staff Sgt. Michael Simic, a military training instructor with the 320th Training Squadron, corrects Airman Basic Christopher Rowin during an inspection.

Insurance companies compensate policy holders

Florida residents target of companies accused of misconduct by state

By 1st Lt. Richard Stabile
Assistant staff judge advocate

Military members may be eligible for compensation if they bought insurance from American Fidelity Life Insurance Company or Trans World Assurance Company.

These two companies, whose sales agents have targeted military members on bases throughout Florida, recently have been accused of misconduct. The companies have been involved in lawsuits in at least three states with complaints in 38 states.

Florida's insurance commissioner and its attorney general investigated these companies and filed charges. The commissioner alleged AMFI continued collecting premiums after policies had been cancelled and reinstated policies without telling customers to keep collecting premiums through automatic payroll deductions. The investigation showed for more than 15 years the companies failed to provide customers with the required buyer's guide and

policy summary. This omission made it harder for customers to understand what they were buying.

In the AMFI case, military members complained the "Flexible Dollar Builder" policy was misrepresented to them as a savings plan.

As a result of a settlement, Florida residents including those in the military currently stationed elsewhere, can file a claim for compensation if they bought a "Flexible Dollar Builder" policy from either AMFI or Trans World Assurance Company. Settlement agreements in the case provide for a restitution program to compensate victims of any sales abuse.

Florida residents can call the state's toll-free number, 800-342-2762, or contact their company directly to inquire about receiving a claim form and compensation. Additional information is available on the Florida Department of Insurance web site at www.doi.state.fl.us.

The companies may be contacted directly at:

American Fidelity Life Insurance Company
4080 Barrancas Ave.
Pensacola, Fla. 32507
(850) 456-7401
(850) 456-5440 fax.
www.americanfidelitylife.com

Trans World Assurance Company
885 South El Camino Real
San Mateo, Calif. 94402
(650) 348-2300

Military members who paid via allotment between 1977

and 1987 may also be able to file a claim for money held by Florida. To do so, contact the Office of the Florida Comptroller, Unclaimed Property Section, 101 East Gaines St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32399-0350. This fund doesn't appear to be limited to Florida residents.

People who aren't Florida residents should contact their company, state attorney general's office or state department of insurance for more information.

The Florida Department of Insurance and the Florida attorney general have also reached settlements with other insurance companies in addition to AMFI and Trans World Assurance. To date, Prudential, John Hancock, American General and MetLife have paid \$34 million in response to investigations of "churning" and other schemes.

A churning scheme may involve telling customers they can buy another policy at no additional cost, when in reality, the cash value of the first policy is drained to pay the premiums on the new, larger policy.

Regardless of residency, if people think there is a problem with their insurance, they should act as soon as possible. There may be a time limit to file a claim.

People who have questions or experience any difficulties, call the legal office at 452-6796.

Briefs

Continued from Page 2

A spokesman for Esso stated the company is working hard to solve what appears to be an administrative problem and they will update AAFES and the U.S. military community on further developments.

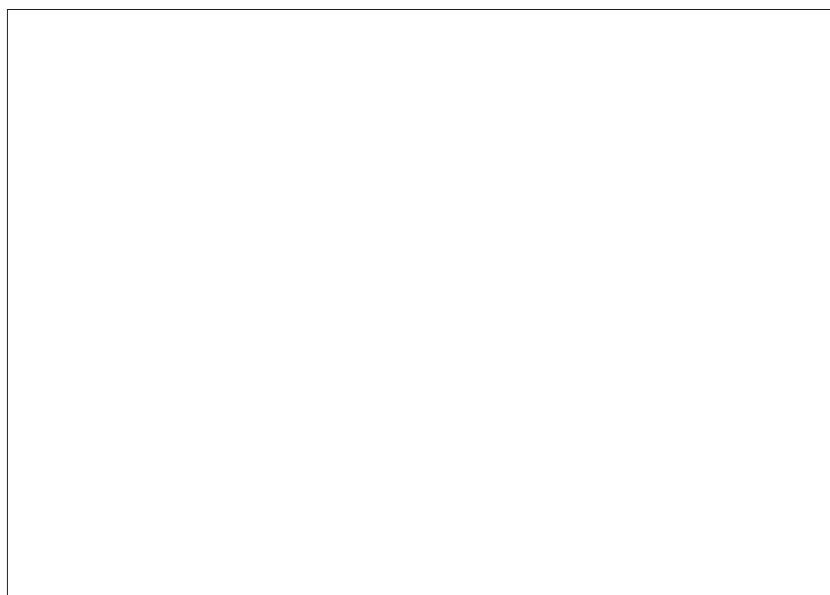
In the interim, coupon holders may use the Esso station located at Pleitkartsfoerster Strasse in Heidelberg, about 5 miles away.

Operation Air Force

Capt. Matt Wadd, wing project officer for Operation Air Force needs officers in the

grade 0-3 and above to sponsor cadets during their time at Spangdahlem. Operation Air Force is a summer program designed to provide ROTC and Air Force Academy cadets with operational Air Force experience. Three sessions are scheduled here, with about 10 cadets each session.

Sessions are now through June 23, June 26-July 14 and July 17-Aug. 4. To volunteer, call Wadd at 452-6573 or e-mail matthew.wadd@spangdahlem.af.mil (no hyphen) which session they're available to sponsor.



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Call 19222 for an ambulance

The German Red Cross (DRK) assumed ambulance service responsibility for Bitburg in April. People who live and work on Bitburg need to call the DRK at 19222 for an ambulance. The Bitburg fire department and hospital are still receiving calls from people who need ambulance service, said Maj. Linda Seavers, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron. "Unfortunately, this wastes precious time," she said.

Service policies govern members' involvement in political process

By Maj. Paula W. Risenhoover
52nd Fighter Wing legal office

While Defense Department and Air Force policies allow members of the armed forces to carry out their obligations as U.S. citizens, including participation in the political process, there are limitations.

Military members are prohibited from taking part in any activity that may be viewed as associating the DOD or Air Force directly or indirectly with a partisan political cause or candidate. In accordance with DOD and Air Force instructions, members may register, vote and express their opinions on political candidates and issues, but may not do so as representatives of the armed forces. They may also make monetary contributions to a political organization and attend partisan and nonpartisan political meetings or rallies, but only as spectators when not in uniform.

Military members may not use their official authority or influence to solicit votes for a candidate or issue, or solicit political contributions from others. They may not become a candidate for or hold civil office and may not participate in partisan political management, campaigns or conventions.

In addition, members may not make campaign contributions to another member of the armed forces or an employee of the federal government.

Generally, rules of reason and common sense apply. Members may display a political bumper sticker on the their private vehicle, but may not display large political signs, banners or posters on the top or side of the vehicle.

These rules apply to all members of the armed forces, including the Guard and Reserves. For information about whether a specific political activity is permitted, call the legal office at 452-6796.

Defense Department civilian employees must also ensure their activities don't create a conflict or apparent conflict of interest with their official duties. Therefore, they may not:

- Use their official authority to influence others into engaging in political activities, or use their official title while participating in a political activity;
- Solicit, accept or receive a political contribution or uncompensated volunteer services from people who are subordinate, or allow their official titles to be used in connection with fund-raising activities;
- Run for nomination or election to public office in a partisan election;
- Solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who is a participant in any matter before or being carried out by the DOD; or
- Engage in political activities (including wearing political buttons) while on duty, while in a government-occupied office or building, while wearing an official uniform, badge, insignia or other similar item, or while using a government vehicle.

Additional prohibitions apply to career members of the SES and employees of the DIA, NSA and NIMA. Call the Legal Office for advice on applying these rules to particular cases.

Promote

Continued from Page 2

The complete list of selectees becomes available on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site by 5 p.m. Central Standard Time today.

"Year 2000 promotions showed more of the same good news we had in 1999," said officials at the Air Force Personnel Center. "Vacancies within each grade drive those promotions and as long as the vacancies exist, we will continue promoting our best qualified to the next higher rank."

As evidenced by the higher rates, tremendous opportunity for advancement exists in today's Air Force for those willing to put forth that extra effort on the job and prepare for promotion tests. Greater upward mobility for the enlisted force is being seen throughout the senior NCO ranks, including senior master sergeant and chief master sergeant, officials added.

"The increased promotion rates seen in the last few years are partly a result of the return to stable force structure and end-strength levels following years of drawdown," added AFPC officials. "The primary reason for

increased promotion rates is our transition to a higher percentage of 'top five' NCOs, previously at 48.5 percent of the enlisted force, now at 52 percent and headed to 56 percent. Continued retention challenges in the midst of a booming economy and thriving civilian job market are also playing key roles in the greater number of vacancies."

People who tested are expected to receive their score notices in mid-June, allowing them to see just how they stacked up against their counterparts. These score notices allow members to know how their Promotion Fitness Examination and Specialty Knowledge Test scores rank against those they're directly competing against for promotion within their Air Force Specialty Code.

The average selectee score for the master sergeant test cycle was 342.23 points based on the following:

- 134.17 Enlisted Performance Reports
- 69.95 Promotion Fitness Exam
- 66.19 Specialty Knowledge Test

- 31.91 time in grade
- 35.74 time in service
- 11.58 decorations

The average selectee has 4.16 years time in grade and 16.87 years in service. Those selected will be promoted to master sergeant from August to July 2001.

The average selectee score for the technical sergeant test cycle was 334.60 points based on the following:

- 132.77 Enlisted Performance Reports
- 66.55 Promotion Fitness Exam
- 58.93 Specialty Knowledge Test
- 44.09 time in grade
- 30.24 time in service
- 7.66 decorations

The average selectee has 6.42 years time in grade and 13.93 years in service. Those selected will also be promoted to technical sergeant from August to July 2001. (Air Force Print News)

Child care instructions change service-wide

Provisions offer home providers accreditation options

By Danita L. Hunter
Air Mobility Command public affairs

The Air Force implemented new policies recently governing family child care to help parents ensure their children are being cared for in the best way possible.

The new instruction — Air Force Instruction 34-276, Family Child Care Programs — was published and became effective Nov. 1, 1999. However, bases were given until May 1 to implement the new procedures, which include giving providers a choice of which level of acceptable quality care they will offer. They will apply for a provisional, standard or developmental license.

Additionally, providers may choose to become accredited through the National Association for Family Child Care. It is also now possible for military families living off base and providing licensed care to become affiliated with the base program; however, Connie Wilson, Spangdahlem family child care coordinator, explained this only applies in the United States and not overseas.

Under the old system, all providers received the same type of license and parents had to research potential providers to determine their levels of experience. With the new system, parents can look on a list provided by each base's family child care coordinator and know which type of license a provider holds.

"It gives parents an opportunity to make a more knowledgeable decision about where they're going to place their children," Wilson said. "As a parent, I can make a more informed decision about what



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Home child care provider Susana Rivera watches (left to right) Nina Basisio, Molly Brown and John Simpson play with shaving cream.

kind of care my children will receive, what experience the provider has, etc."

The new system also provides the child care providers with some choices. All new family child care providers start with a provisional license, which may be upgraded after three months. Within two years, providers are required to upgrade to at least a developmental license. Providers may also choose to take the next step and become an accredited home.

"It provides a way to differentiate between those who are providing the standard level of care and those who are providing more developmentally appropriate activities and care," Wilson said.

New providers are issued a provisional three-month license. During this time, providers are discouraged from taking children on off-base field trips until they can demonstrate a higher level of

competency, the number of children in their care is limited to four, and an experienced provider is assigned to each provider to act as a mentor. This allows new child care providers to ease into the full responsibility given with a standard license while meeting the same health and safety requirements.

"It gives them the opportunity to see if they really want to provide care, if they're enjoying this kind of work, and it gives the coordinators time to observe the new providers while they work with children," Wilson said.

After the initial three-month period, the panel reevaluates the provider's status and makes a determination to upgrade or revoke the provider's license.

If the license is upgraded, the provider can care for up to six children under age 8, including the provider's own children. The standard license is good for up to two years, including the three-month trial period.

At some point before the two years is up, however, the provider must apply for a developmental license if choosing to continue to provide care for children.

"We provide training for providers," Wilson said. "We're helping the providers reach the developmental level of licensing, helping them to pursue a professional career, and giving parents an accurate idea of the quality of care their child is receiving."

With a developmental license, the provider must comply with standards on offering the children early education experiences.

"Developmental providers have more experience and have demonstrated they have an understanding of more than the basics," she said.

As an option, providers in the developmental stage can apply to become a National Association for Family Child Care-accredited home.

"An NAFCC Observer visits the home to observe interactions, activities, the environment and materials, and the precautions taken to ensure the safety and health of the children," Wilson said.

At every stage of the licensing process, providers undergo rigorous screening and are inspected regularly on specific items such as health/safety standards in the home.

"Air Force provisions are based on a national accreditation standard for quality child care," said Dr. Beverly Schmalzried, Air Force Services Agency, chief of family members programs. "We take a whole child developmental approach and require our providers to read to the children at least once per day, take them on field trips, and, in general, help them to develop their pre-school abilities."

DOD civilians, contractors pay for medical care received in military treatment facilities overseas

By Staff Sgt. Rich Romero
52nd Fighter Wing public affairs

While Defense Department civilian employees, contractors and their families are entitled by the TRICARE Europe Health Services Plan to medical benefits in military hospitals overseas, it's not free medical care.

These "pay patients," who don't include General Schedule or other employees who are family members of active-duty military members, are charged a per visit flat fee which differs depending upon their category — DOD employee or DOD contractor, according to Maj. Krzysztof Kras, 52nd Medical Support Squadron resource management flight commander.

"The resource management office will charge the appropriate fee based upon the patient's identification card," he said.

To receive medical care, pay patients must first enroll in DEERS at the military personnel flight. Once this process is complete, they need to visit the TRICARE Service Center at

Bitburg in building 67 to register into the military healthcare system.

A 52nd Medical Group policy requires pay patients to be seen primarily by the internal medicine clinic at Bitburg, Kras said. Those older than age 18 are assigned a provider in internal medicine, while younger patients are seen in the pediatric clinic.

"Occasionally, they may be seen at the family practice clinic at Spangdahlem on a walk-in basis (space available), meaning there wasn't a scheduled appointment made," he said.

Flat fees for clinic visits typically includes all necessary lab work, X-rays and medication, Kras said. An exception is immunizations.

"The fee for each immunization, not each visit to the clinic, is \$30," he explained. "If a patient receives three shots during one visit, the cost is \$90."

DOD officials determine the rates for clinic visits and are

subject to change each fiscal year. The current fiscal 2000 rates are:

Clinic	DOD rate	Contractor rate
Pediatrics	\$115	\$121
Well-baby	\$79	\$83
Gynecology	\$165	\$175
Obstetrics	\$138	\$146
Family practice	\$138	\$146
Optometry	\$93	\$98
Allergy	\$99	\$105
Nutrition	\$79	\$83
Community health	\$123	\$130
Mental health	\$194	\$204
Physical therapy	\$77	\$81
Internal medicine	\$194	\$204
General surgery	\$276	\$291
Emergency room	\$234	\$247
Otolaryngology	\$197	\$207
Flight medicine	\$164	\$173
Orthopedic	\$174	\$183
Immunizations	\$30 (per shot)	\$32 (per shot)

For more information on pay patient policies and fees, call the resource management flight at 453-3111.

Community Mailbox

Facility hours change

AAFES changed its regular operating hours for the following facilities:

■Anthony's Pizza on Bitburg, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday.

■Bitburg main store, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

■Spangdahlem main store, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

■Burger King on Spangdahlem, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

In addition, the Spangdahlem Skyline Theater closes Wednesday and Thursday beginning in June.

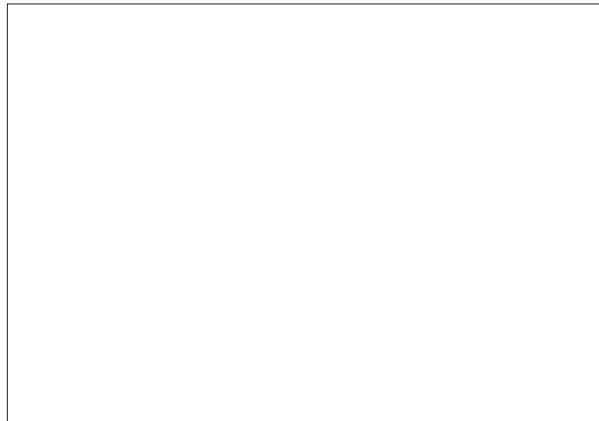
Adoption symposium

Landstuhl's American Red Cross Adoption Support Group sponsors the eighth annual European Adoption Symposium 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday in the Ramstein Air Base High School.

For more information, call the Landstuhl American Red Cross at DSN 486-7298 or 06371-867298.

Toastmasters

The Spangdahlem Toastmasters invites people to attend a demonstration meeting 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday in the Spangdahlem recreation center. For more information, call Ralph Jones at 480-7379



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Marketable skill

Tech. Sgt. Brigido Santiago, 52nd Dental Squadron dental assistant, checks Master Sgt. Jacqueline Slone's teeth. The squadron offers a six-month American Red Cross volunteer dental assistant training program in September. To take part, people must first schedule an interview with the dental clinic staff. Interviews take place in June. Call 452-8193 for an interview. Upon acceptance into and completion of the course, students will be awarded a dental assistant certificate.

or Bonita Gamble at 452-5801.

Baby-care class

A two-hour class offered by family advocacy 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday in building 67 on Bitburg covers care for a newborn, including how to cope with a baby and more. Both parents are encouraged to attend. To register, call family advocacy at 453-3129.

World War II society

The World War II Society Europe holds its first meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday in the Spangdahlem community activities center ballroom. For more information, call co-ordinator Ed Lapotsky at 06507-8292.

On tap at the FSC

All of the following classes and seminars take place in the family support center unless otherwise indicated.

■Resume writing, 1-4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

■Kids on the move, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday in the Spangdahlem Elementary School. This is an informational workshop for children who will PCS in the summer. Call the school at 452-6881 to register.

■Great Expectations, designed for expectant parents, 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

■Home buying, 6-8 p.m. Thursday.

For more information or to register, call 452-7491.

Touch of Home fund-raiser

The Restaurant Santorini in Speicher invites people to attend the Touch of Home fund-raiser 6 p.m. to midnight June 24.

The event raises money for the Spangdahlem child development center. Cost is \$20 per person and includes dinner, dancing and music. For reservations, call Kathy Stutts at 06580-347, Master Sgt. Sherry Rossi at 452-6176, Yolanda Castro at 452-5320 or Laura Goldthwait at 452-6697.

Volunteers

The American Red Cross needs volunteers to work with children, help in the hospital, become CPR instructors, work in the vet clinic or become case workers.

In addition, there are also leadership positions vacant in publicity and fund raising. Other advisory board positions open include health and safety, youth, records and station chair.

The ARC offers volunteers child care reimbursement. For more information, call 453-6740.

Officials compare eating uncooked burger to playing deadly game of Russian roulette

By Rick Brink
DeCA public affairs

FORT LEE, Va. — As safe as hamburger is to buy, eating it uncooked is like a deadly game of Russian roulette, according to Defense Commissary Agency food safety officials.

"Never eat raw or undercooked hamburger," said Army Col. Robert Hicks, DeCA's public health and food quality assurance chief. "The health risk is real and the consequences can be severe."

All meats have a low level of bacteria, but it's the possible presence of the E. coli O157:H7 bacteria that makes eating raw hamburger so dangerous. The disease caused by E. coli is potentially fatal, especially in children and the elderly.

Before 1993, the American public had never heard of E. coli. A food borne illness outbreak that took the lives of several children in Washington state changed all that. Currently, at least six people have died in Canada from a recent outbreak.

People generally know about bacteria in meat, but lately eating raw hamburger and uncooked hamburger in dishes like steak tartare has grown in popularity. It's a trend Hicks

doesn't want to see popularized because while federal agencies have increased their surveillance of meat processing centers, they don't have the means to guarantee the meat that reaches consumers is completely free of disease-causing organisms.

"A look into the hamburger manufacturing process is a good place to start from in educating consumers about the need to cook it," he said.

First, hamburger meat comes from cattle and all cattle have E. coli bacteria in their intestinal tracts. If mistakes are made during the slaughtering process, the meat may become contaminated. While the specific pathogen (disease causing) E. coli bacterium is not in every cow, it is widespread.

Secondly, ground beef is a mixed product, greatly different from roasts and other solid beef cuts. It poses a greater health concern because the grinding process mixes bacteria normally found only on the surface of solid beef cuts to a relative uniformity throughout the product. This means that adequate cooking (160 degrees Fahrenheit) must occur throughout the hamburger to kill all pathogens.

Irradiation is the best current technology for killing bacteria in raw hamburger. Although it was recently approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the

commercial irradiation of raw hamburger meat is not widespread.

"The final part of the treatment of the meat rests in the hands of the consumer," Hicks said. "That part of the equation is simply the adequate cooking of the meat to kill any remaining pathogens."

Hamburger sold in European commissaries is all American beef and is ground in one of our two central meat processing plants. One additional safety feature is the vacuum packaging used for all fresh beef products processed here.

"Air is removed from around the product during the vacuum packing process," said John Hoca, central meat processing plant manager at Ramstein Air Base. "This retards bacterial growth and keeps the product fresher longer. Consumers still need to handle fresh hamburger with care — keep it refrigerated or frozen, thaw frozen hamburger in the refrigerator, never thaw on the kitchen counter at room temperature, and always cook hamburger until well done."

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Bitburg Castle

Today

Where the Heart Is (PG-13)

Natalie Portman, Stockard Channing, Joan Cusack, Keith David, Sally Field and Ashley Judd

Novalee Nation, a pregnant teenager (Portman) from Tennessee running away to California with her boyfriend (Bruno) finds herself abandoned by him at a Wal-Mart store in Oklahoma. Field plays her mother; Channing plays an eccentric character called Sister Husband . . . not a nun; Judd plays the nurse aide that befriends her when she eventually has the baby.

Saturday

Where the Heart Is

Sunday

The Next Best Thing (PG-13)

Abbie and Robert are best friends with a lot in common; however, when too many cocktails and a twist of fate takes them to a new level of intimacy, they become parents. They decide to live together as a family. Theirs may not be the perfect family, but it is the next best thing.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

Final Destination (R)

When one of the passengers on an airliner bound for Paris has a vision of the plane exploding and crashing, he and six others leave before it takes off. Strangely, the plane really does crash. Soon, however, each of the seven survivors begins to die mysteriously . . . and it's up to those left behind to figure out what happened before they die too.

Thursday

My Dog Skip (PG)

In 1942, Willie is a shy and gawky 8-year-old boy in Yazoo, Miss. He is an only child, ignored at school and uncomfortable with girls. On Willie's ninth birthday, he receives a terrier puppy that he names Skip. With Skip's canine help, Willie starts becoming "one of the boys."

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

Gladiator (R)

In AD 180, when a cruel new Emperor of Rome, Commodus (Phoenix), takes power, he strips the rank from Maximus (Croke), one of the favored generals of his predecessor and father, the great stoic philosopher-king, Emperor Marc Aurelius. Relegated to fighting in the gladiator arenas to the death lest he challenges Commodus for the emperorship, can this former leader of men survive long enough to break his chains and wreak his vengeance on his mortal enemy, the man who rules Rome?

Saturday

Gladiator

Sunday

Topsy Turvy (PG-13)

Topsy-Turvy leaps back in time to grant filmmakers an audience with two Londoners whose lives were marked by extraordinary creativity - Gilbert and Sullivan. In 1884, after Gilbert and Sullivan's latest play fails, the team threatens to disband until they are inspired to do their masterpiece, "The Mikado."

Monday

The 9th Gate (R)

Rare book sleuth Lucas Corso has been hired to find the two other existing copies of the 17th century Book Of The Nine Doors in the Kingdom of Darkness, reputed to hold the key to conjuring Satan. Somehow this search becomes tangled up with the original manuscript of Dumas' Three Musketeers, which has, in a most labyrinthine manner, just come into Corso's hands. He travels from Madrid to Paris in search of the Book Of The Nine Doors, pursued by a scarred thug and a Kim Novak double.

Tuesday

Here on Earth (PG -13)

During one fateful summer, first love blossoms in the Berkshire Woods. The romantic triangle that develops is only the beginning of a new journey for Kelley, Samantha and Jasper, their three lives are affected by one another, as they ultimately make life-changing discoveries about themselves and each other.

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 453-7541.

Gransdorf invites local Americans to share culture during anniversary

By Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing public affairs

Step back in time with the neighboring community of Gransdorf as the Ackerbau Southheifel Association celebrates its 10th anniversary June 16-18 with a variety of events.

Historical harvesting demonstrations to old-style farming exhibitions and hot air balloon rides are on tap. The celebration begins at 8 p.m. June 16 with a rock disco for youth.

Activities start up again at 9 a.m. June 17 with the arrival of antique tractors which will be on display throughout the weekend. A social hour at 2 p.m. officially welcomes guests. A historical hay harvest follows at 3 p.m. Food and beverages will be available throughout the day.

The Platten Vintners band plays entertainment music at 8 p.m. Dance music follows at 10 p.m. performed by the Sunday Express.

Activities June 18 feature a trucker's breakfast at 8 a.m.

A catholic church service takes place at 9 a.m. A social hour starts at 10 a.m. followed by lunch at noon. Historical demonstrations of life in the "old days" continue at 2 p.m. Coffee and cake will be served in the afternoon starting at 3 p.m.

There will be a raffle at 6 p.m. where people can win a hot air balloon ride. The balloon will take off soon afterward.

A "Formel 1 Life Show" from Canada is scheduled at 7

Courtesy photo

Farmers demonstrate the old way of harvesting crops.

m. Music and fun continue from 9 p.m. until the next morning in Gransdorf.

Gransdorf invites its American neighbors to come and enjoy this festival. This is an opportunity for Americans to find out how the Gransdorfers, and all Eifel people, used to live about 900 years ago.

To get to Gransdorf, drive out the Spangdahlem main gate and turn right, going through Spangdahlem village. In the village stay on the priority road which curves to the right to take you out of town.

Stay on this road and you'll see the festivities on your right hand side, not long after you leave Spangdahlem village.

Was ist los

www.titanic-online.de.

■Horseback riding courses for children are available by the Wittlich horse riding association June 26, July 3, 10, 17 and 24. Basic riding will be taught during the five-day course. Food and beverages will be offered to the children at the Reiterstutchen restaurant. For more information or to register for a course, call 06571-7704.

■Join the Spangdahlem Spouses and Enlisted Members Club on a July 8-9 trip to Baden-Baden and the Black Forest. Cost is 215 DM per person for members and 220 DM per person for non-members, including round-trip bus transportation, one hotel night in Baden-Baden and breakfast at the hotel. For reservations, call Shawn Hamilton at 06575-959135 or Christine Cooney at 06565-942202.

■Reserve your ticket now to a concert by Chris Rea Sept. 23 in the Koblenz-Oberwerth sports hall. Contact Ingo.Popp-concerts@t-online.de for more information and tickets, or by calling 0651-9941188.

■A collection of porcelain and ceramics can be seen now through Oct. 31 in the Trier Städtische Simeonstift museum located next to the Trier Porta Nigra. The exhibition is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

■Check out the "Viva la Fiesta" festival featuring country, folk, Latino rhythms and choir performances through June 19 at Ramstein-Miesenbach. For more information, call 06371-592220 2-6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday.

■Plan to see the annual Eichternach Spring Catholic procession Monday and Tuesday. The event attracts thousands of people each year.

■Enjoy wine tasting during the "Days of Open Wine Cellars" in Berncastel-Kues today through Monday.

■Stores open July 2 throughout Berncastel-Kues.

■The 11th European Hot Air Balloon meet takes place Aug. 11-13 at the Berncastel-Moselpark Plateau. Rides will be available.

■The following popular music groups will be on stage at the Saarburg Stadthalle (city hall): Alice Cooper July 7 and Fury in the Slaughterhouse Oct. 28-29. Tickets are available via Ingo.Popp-concerts@t-online.de or by calling 0651-9941188.

■Plan to attend the annual wine festival of the middle-Mosel Aug. 31 through Sept. 4 in Berncastel-Kues.

■Reserve your tickets now for a concert by The Harvard Din & Tonics of 2000 at 8 p.m. June 17 in the Daun FORUM, located on Leopold Strasse. The group's repertoire consists of 13 Harvard undergraduates, featuring jazz from the 1920's and 1930's, rock 'n' roll from the 1950's through the 1980's and selections from calypso, swing and folk genres. For tickets, call Shock Ticket Service in Trier at 0651-41253 or 00352-507750 in Luxembourg.

■Plan to attend Bitburg's annual European Folk festival July 7-10. This festival features folk dances and music by groups from 15

different countries in Europe and elsewhere. An amusement park, a large festival tent and a parade July 9 are scheduled. For more information, call the Bitburg tourist information office at 06561-94340.

■The Beatles come to the Armed Forces Recreation Center resort at Lake Chamsee in a musical biography brought to life by the group, "Twist and Shoot," out of Las Vegas. The premier takes place July 5. Four performances a week follow Thursday through Sunday until August 20. Tickets are available to hotel and campsite guests. For more information, call the Chamsee tours office at 08051-803171. For room or campsite reservations, call the AFRC Europe Vacation Planning Center at DSN 440-2575 or 08821-72981. Twenty-four hour access to the center is available at www.AFRCEurope.com.

■Eifel West child development center sponsors a trip to Bolsewiec, Poland. The trip departs at 9 p.m. June 16 and returns at 3 a.m. June 18. Cost is \$60 per seat. Call Marva Trisvan at 06562-932107 or Vertie Taylor at 06565-944397 to register by June 9.

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June tours through ITT. For details, call the Eifel East community center at 452-6567 or the Eifel West community center at 453-7120.

■Paris Delight, one overnight, June 17-18, \$185 for adults and \$130 for children ages 3-12 sharing with two adults.

■Switzerland, June 17, \$75 for adults and \$69 for children ages 3-12.

■Expo 2000 Express, World Fair in Hannover, June 17, \$99 for adults, \$79 for children ages 6-11 and \$30 for children ages 3-5.

■Walibi Park, June 18, \$50 per person, free entrance for children under 1 meter (about 3 1/2 feet) in height.

■Mosel cruise, dinner and wine tasting, June 24, \$48 per person.

■Disneyland Paris, June 24, \$85 for adults and \$75 for children ages 3-11.

■Bavarian Castles, June 24, \$80 for adults and \$75 for children ages 4-17.

■Cologne Zoo and aquarium, June 25, \$30 for adults, \$25 for children ages 4-17.

...

The outdoor recreation program sponsors the following trips in June. For details, call 452-7176.

■Free rope course facilitators training, Monday through 16.

■Rock climbing in Berdorf, Luxembourg, June 24-25, \$80 per person with camping and \$50 without camping.

■Knot tying for camping and climbing clinic, June 27, \$5 per person.

High school soccer teams take third in Division II finale

By Staff Sgt. Rich Romero
52nd Fighter Wing public affairs

Both Bitburg High School soccer teams wrapped up the season with third place trophies in the Division II European Soccer Championships.

While both teams were closely seeded, the Barons sixth and the Lady Barons fifth, they took vastly different paths to third in the three-day championships at Heidelberg during Memorial Day weekend.

Tournament officials upheld a protest by AFCENT claiming undefeated SHAPE used an ineligible player in its 5-2 overtime win May 26 over AFCENT. Tournament director Jack Gardner disqualified SHAPE for playing 20-year-old Nuno Monteiro, who's too old to play Department of Defense Dependent Schools sports. That left no one to play the Barons in the consolation game.

The next day tournament officials decided to cancel the third-place game and declare Bitburg the winner by default.

Early in the tournament, Barons coach Denny Lemmon felt the team had a great shot at first place as Bitburg finished day one undefeated, even though they lost starting goalie Travis Carr. He was sent to the hospital after getting kicked in the head while saving a shot on goal by Mannheim. A concussion put Carr out of the rest of the tournament. Cory Czyzewski chalked up a hat trick in that 4-1

opening win.

A few hours later, the Barons dominated the Hanau Panthers with freshman sensation Chad Thompson scoring two goals and Czyzewski adding his fourth of the tournament in a 5-1 win.

"The Barons' defensive unit of Mike Wilding, Eric Holdsworth, Chris Johnson and Matt Reynolds did a fine job holding their opponents to just two goals in two games," Lemmon said. "That ultimately proved crucial in our tournament progression."

Two undefeated teams faced off during the second day of action, Bitburg and the AFCENT Lions, to determine the top seed in final four competition. Down 2-1 at the half, the Barons came on strong in the second period on goals from Thompson and Czyzewski. When the final whistle blew, the game was tied. In pool play leading up to the final four, there's no overtime or shoot-out to determine the winner, Lemmon explained.

"Goal differential is used to determine the number one seed heading into the final four," he said. "Even using that criteria, we were still tied."

The final determination was made based upon the number of goals scored against each team during the tournament. By a single goal, the Barons earned the number one seed, allowing only two goals against.

The stage was set for the final four – SHAPE vs. AFCENT and the Black Forest Academy vs. Bitburg. The two winners would square off for the Division II championship.

"The Barons always seem to get off to a slow start," Lemmon said. "Once again, we found ourselves trailing 2-0 at the half against Black Forest."

Realizing time was running out and their shot at the trophy was fading, senior captain Mike Wilding turned it up a notch in the second half to score twice and send the game into overtime. Two 10-minute overtime periods would determine the winner.

"Both teams were beginning to show signs of fatigue, having just completed two full games of soccer that day," Lemmon said. "By the end of the day, both teams played more than 180 minutes of soccer."

The last 20-minutes turned into a battle of endurance. While the Barons controlled the ball and created excellent scoring opportunities, no one could find the back of the net. Still tied following both overtimes, a shoot-out loomed.

"In a shoot-out, it comes down to luck as to who advances," Lemmon said. "I feel the fairest method would be to allow the teams to play until someone finally scores or quits."

Again, a one goal differential determined the winner, this time with Bitburg on the

losing end in a 4-3 shoot-out. Following the SHAPE disqualification, Bitburg walked away with third without having to play another game.

Czyzewski and Wilding were selected to the All-Tournament Team for the Barons.

Lady Barons

With only three returning players from last year's squad, the Lady Barons compiled a 3-2 record during the championship tournament. They beat Mannheim 7-1, SHAPE 1-0 and Vilseck 2-1 to bring home third.

"The girls came out fast at the end of the season and peaked at the right time," said Coach John Hall. "They played their hearts out (in the tournament)."

Wesley Canada nailed a 30-meter direct kick with three minutes left in the SHAPE match to put the Lady Barons in the semi-finals, where they lost to the International School of Brussels. Jessica McDonnell locked up the third place finish with the only two goals against Vilseck.

Three Lady Barons – Arleen Holland, Canada and Kristi Wilding – received All-Conference selections. Holland and Canada were also named to the All-Tournament Team.

Eifel sports world

Varsity softball

While the Lady Sabers split their doubleheader Saturday against rival Ramstein, a lack of consistent hitting proved to be their downfall in suffering their first loss of the season.

With a solid 15-7 win in game one, the Lady Sabers could only muster three runs in their 7-3 game-two loss.

Until the sixth inning in game one, a lack of offensive punch plagued the team. Down 6-5, Val Mackin ignited a rally with a shot to deep left center. Before they were done, the Lady Sabers pushed six runs across the plate. Ramstein could only score once in their half of the inning.

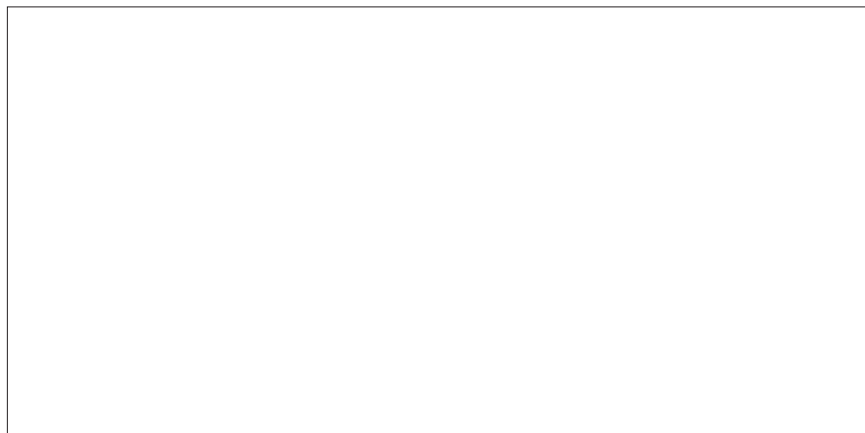
Mackin again sparked the Saber bats in the top of the seventh with another shot to center. Spangdahlem added four more runs to cushion their lead and ultimately win.

Mandy Snyder, Megan Gibbs and Dana Smith each went three for five at the plate. Solid defense helped hand Wendy Triplett her fifth victory in five starts at the mound.

At the start of game two, it appeared the offensive slump was over for the Lady Sabers. With two runners on, Kathy Hubscher emptied the bases with a triple down the left field line and later scored on a drive to the left by Kristine Nimmo.

Then the game turned sour for Spangdahlem. The Lady Sabers mustered a mere seven hits the rest of the game for their first loss of the season.

At 5-1, Spangdahlem travels to Ramstein for a tournament Saturday and Sunday. Any active duty or family members wanting to try out for the team should



Courtesy photo

A force to be reckoned with

More than 225,000 spectators were on hand to watch as the Air Force stock car made its racing debut May 28 in the Coca Cola 600 at Lowe's Motor Speedway, Charlotte, N.C. Dale Jarrett, driving the Air Force car, #88, finished fifth in the event, ahead of the cars representing the other military services. NASCAR has joined with all five branches of the armed forces to target its fans in support of military recruiting efforts, through a special program called, "Tribute to Freedom in the Millennium."

call the varsity coach, Rick Aldridge, at 452-6501.

Basketball tournament

As part of Juneteenth activities, a three-on-three basketball tournament takes place at 9 a.m. June 24. To participate, call Tech. Sgt. Allen Rockemore at 453-3383 or Staff Sgt. Oscar Grisson at 453-3384. People must be 16 years old or older. Deadline to register is June 22.

Little League tournaments

The Eifel Little League hosts the Germany junior boy's baseball tournament June 30 through July 2 and the European girl's softball tournament July 8-15.

As a result, the league needs volunteers for field maintenance, chaperones, translators and score keepers. Teams from throughout Europe will attend.

For more information, call Lela Corlew at 06565-7565 or Jim Kahler at 06565-944436.